

Public Law 94-540
94th Congress

An Act

To provide for the disposition of funds appropriated to pay a judgment in favor of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians in Indian Claims Commission docket numbered 40-K, and for other purposes.

Oct. 18, 1976

[S. 1659]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the funds appropriated by the Act of October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1190, 1198), to pay a judgment to the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians in Indian Claims Commission docket numbered 40-K, together with any interest thereon, after payment of attorney fees and litigation expenses and such expenses as may be necessary in effecting the provisions of this Act, shall be distributed as provided herein.

Grand River
Band of Ottawa
Indians.
Judgment funds.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior shall prepare a roll of all persons of Grand River Band of Ottawa Indian blood who meet the following requirements for eligibility: (a) they were born on or prior to and were living on the date of this Act; and (b) their name or the name of a lineal ancestor from whom they claim eligibility appears as a Grand River Ottawa on the Ottawa and Chippewa Tribe of Michigan, Durant Roll of 1908, approved by the Secretary of the Interior, February 18, 1910, or on any available census rolls or other records acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior; (c) who possess Grand River Ottawa Indian blood of the degree of one-fourth or more; and (d) are citizens of the United States.

Requirements.

SEC. 3. Applications for enrollment must be filed with the Great Lakes Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Ashland, Wisconsin, in the manner and within the time limits prescribed for that purpose. The determination of the Secretary of the Interior regarding the eligibility of an applicant shall be final.

Applications.

SEC. 4. The judgment funds shall be distributed per capita to the persons whose names appear on the roll prepared in accordance with section 2 of this Act.

Distribution.

SEC. 5. Sums payable to adult living enrollees or to adult heirs or legatees of deceased enrollees shall be paid directly to such persons. Sums payable to enrollees or their heirs or legatees who are less than eighteen years of age or who are under legal disability shall be paid in accordance with such procedures, including the establishment of trustees, as the Secretary of the Interior determines appropriate to protect the best interests of such persons.

Income tax,
exemption.

SEC. 6. None of the funds distributed per capita or held in trust under the provisions of this Act shall be subject to Federal or State income taxes, nor shall such funds or their availability be considered as income or other resources or otherwise utilized as the basis for denying or reducing the financial assistance or other benefits to which such household or member would otherwise be entitled to under the Social Security Act or any other Federal or federally assisted program.

Rules and
regulations.

SEC. 7. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to prescribe rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved October 18, 1976.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

SENATE REPORT No. 94-577 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 121 (1975): Dec. 19, considered and passed Senate.

Vol. 122 (1976): Oct. 1, considered and passed House.